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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

See report #7

VARIETY OF GERANIUM PLANT NAMED 'PENBER'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Pelargonium x hortorum* known by the varietal name 'Penber'. The new variety was discovered in 1996 in a selective breeding program in Oosterhout, The Netherlands. The new variety is a naturally occurring mutation of 'Melody' (PEL 676)(U.S. Plant Patent No. 8,006.) The new variety exhibits the flower color of its parent, but differs in its flower shape, leaf color and leaf shape. The new variety was first asexually reproduced by vegetative propagation by cuttings in Dresden, Germany in 1997. The new variety has been trial and field tested and has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics and remain true to type through successive propagations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying photographic drawing illustrates the new variety, with the color being as nearly true as is possible with color illustrations of this type.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following detailed description sets forth the characteristics of the new cultivar at an age of 6 months, grown in a pot having a 15 cm diameter. The data which defines these characteristics were collected by asexual reproductions by cuttings carried out in Dresden, Germany. The color readings were taken outdoors in shadow during summer. Color references are primarily to the R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

PLANT

Classification:

Botanical: *Pelargonium x hortorum*.

Commercial: Zonal geranium.

Form: Erect.

Height from media surface to top of foliage: 22-25 cm.

Height from media surface to top of umbel: 30 cm.

Width: 25 cm.

Growth: Erect, very compact, well-branched.

Strength: Does not require artificial support.

Response time: 4 weeks.

Leaves:

Size: 6-8 cm long.

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Width: 6.5 cm.
 Shape: Cordate, undulated.
 Margin: Partially toothed.
 Texture: Smooth.
 Color: Upper surface has middle of Green Group 138A with an edge of Green-White Group 157D.
 Lower surface has middle of Green Group 138B with an edge of Green-White Group 157D.
 Rib Color: Green Group 138C.
 Vein Color: Green Group 138C.

Petioles:

Color: Green Group 138B
 Diameter: 0.2 cm.
 Length: 4 cm.

Stem/branches:

Color: Green Group 138B.
 Length: 25 cm.
 Internode length: 1-2 cm.

THE BUD

Shape when just showing color:

Overall: Semi-spherical
 Individual bud: Narrow; elliptical.

Color: Green Group 143C.

Size when just showing color:

Umbel: 5 cm across.
 Individual bud: 1 cm long; 0.5-0.8 cm wide.

INFLORESCENCE

Blooming habit: Semi-double.
 Size of fully open bloom: 2-2.5 cm across.
 Borne: Umbel; umbel on pedicel; pedicel on peduncle.

Umbel:

Diameter: 5 cm.

Depth: 4 cm.

Inflorescences: 50 per plant per season.

Flowers:

Form: Zygomorph.

Number of petals: 7-10.

Size: 1 cm across; 1-1.5 cm long.

Petals:

Apex: Round.

Base: Pointed.

Margin: Smooth.

Color:

Markings/Dots: Red-Purple Group 57B

Upper surface: Red-Purple Group 68C.

Lower surface: Red-Purple Groups 67C-D.

Texture and appearance: Velvety.

Sepals:

Quantity: 5.

Length: 0.7cm.

Width: 0.3 cm.

Margin: Smooth.

Upper surface color: Yellow-Green Group 144B.

Lower surface color: Yellow-Green Group 144B.

Petaloids:

Quantity: 7.

Shape: Small, irregularly formed; undulated.

Apex: Round, but irregular.

Base: Pointed.

Margin: Smooth.

Width: 0.3 cm.

Color:

Upper surface: Red-Purple Group 68B.
Lower surface: Red-Purple Groups 67 C-D.

Pedicel:

Length: 2 cm.
Color: Greyed-Orange Group 166B.

Peduncle:

Length: 5-8 cm.
Color: Green Group 138B.

Disease/pest resistance: No susceptibility to diseases or pests has been noted to date.

Lasting Quality: Long-lasting; 3 weeks per umbel.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Stamens:

Anthers: 3 mm long.
Filaments:
Length: 0.5 cm maximum.
Color: Pink.
Pollen: Yellow.

Pistils:

Number: One with 5 parts.
Length: 0.3-0.4 cm.
Stigma: Pink.
Style: 0.8 cm long.

Ovaries:

Color: Greenish.
Length: 0.4 cm.

Fruit: Absent.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Very compact.
2. Very decorative as pot plant.
3. Chimeric plant with two-colored foliage.
4. Flowering season is spring until frost.